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COMPARATIVE ANATOMY and PHYSIOLOGY, and generally on such other branches of medicine as depend on scientific principles;

Meteorological Registers, and Reports of Agricultural Experiments: and we would leave room also for interesting miscellaneous things, not perhaps exactly included under either of the above heads.

For half a century the *American Journal of Science* remained practically our only scientific journal. Then in 1867 THE AMERICAN NATURALIST was established, followed in 1872 by *The Popular Science Monthly*, of which THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY is the editorial successor, and in 1883 by the weekly journal SCIENCE. Simultaneously special journals began to appear: in 1875 the *Botanical Bulletin*, the predecessor of *The Botanical Gazette*; in 1878 the *American Journal of Mathematics*, in 1879 *The American Chemical Journal*, now merged with the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*; in 1888, *The American Geologist*, no longer published, in 1887 *The Journal of Morphology*, and so on, in increasing numbers until to-day the files of our scientific journals fill alcoves of a library. The American Journal of Science is now only one in a large group of journals, but it occupies an important place earned not only by its history but also by its present high standard in the publication of scientific research.

HOURS, FATIGUE AND HEALTH IN BRITISH MUNITION FACTORIES

HOURS, fatigue and health in British munition factories is the title of a Bulletin, No. 221, issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor as the first of a series of bulletins prepared at the instance of the Council of National Defense for the purpose of giving wide circulation to the experiences of Great Britain,

France, Canada and other countries in dealing with labor in the production of the largest quantity of munitions in the shortest space of time. The bulletin contains the reprint of eight memoranda published by the British Health of Munition Workers' Committee which was appointed in September, 1915, "to consider and advise in questions of industrial fatigue, hours of labor, and other matters affecting the personal health and physical efficiency of workers in munition factories and workshops." These memoranda deal with Sunday labor, hours of work, output in relation to hours of work, industrial fatigue and its causes, sickness and injury, special industrial diseases, ventilation and lighting in munition factories and workshops, the effects of industrial conditions upon eyesight.

From a perusal of these memoranda it appears that Sunday labor, in the opinion of the committee, is not profitable and that continuous work "is a profound mistake" and does not lead to increased output; that a system of shifts although impracticable in some cases is to be preferred to overtime, since the latter taxes the strength of workers too severely, results in loss of time because of exhaustion and sickness, and curtails unduly the period of rest; that night work should be discouraged, that output can not be maintained at the highest level for any considerable period if the conditions are such as to lead to excessive fatigue and to deterioration in the health of the worker, with a recommendation that hours should not exceed 56 per week for men engaged in very heavy labor, or 60 for men engaged in moderately heavy labor, while 64 should be a maximum.

The committee's study of industrial fatigue and its causes sums up its own studies of hours of labor, emphasizing the importance of reg-

ularity of hours and of daily and weekly rests made with due consideration of the character of the work performed. In its report on sickness and injury the committee points out certain injurious conditions which should be guarded against as likely to diminish seriously the efficiency of the labor force "To conserve energy and efficiency is, other things being equal, the way to improve output." The medical examination of all workers before employment is recommended, and it is suggested that factories should provide proper sanitary facilities, safeguard machinery, make arrangements for adequate medical and nurse schemes, etc. The value of first-aid is emphasized.

The report on special industrial diseases gives the causes, methods of prevention and treatment for the principal industrial diseases which have been found to affect munition workers. Particular attention is directed to the importance of adequate lighting and ventilation which are absolutely essential for the maintenance of health and comfort and, therefore, the efficiency and capacity of the workers. Special measures to prevent undue strain upon eyesight and to reduce the liability of accidents to a minimum are recommended.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Karl Grove Gilbert, the distinguished geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey; of John Harper Long, professor of chemistry in Northwestern University Medical School; of Stephen Farnham Peckham, known for his work in the chemistry of bitumens; of George M. Searle, formerly professor of mathematics and astronomy in the Catholic University of America; of Richard Rathbun, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution,

and of Sir Alexander Peddler, the English chemist.

THE Croonian Lecture before the Royal Society was delivered by Major W. B. Cannon, professor of physiology, Harvard Medical School, on June 20, the subject being "The physiological basis of thirst."—The Wilbur Wright memorial lecture of the British Aeronautical Society was delivered in the Central Hall, Westminster, on June 25, by Professor W. F. Durand, chairman of the American Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, scientific attaché to the American Aviation Mission in Europe, and professor of mechanical engineering, Stanford University, U. S. A. The subject was "Some Outstanding Problems in Aeronautics."

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Scientific Societies affiliated with it will meet at Baltimore in Convocation Week. It had been originally planned to meet in Boston, but under existing conditions it was thought best to choose a place as near as possible to the main centers of scientific activity and at the present time large numbers of scientific men are working at Washington. It is planned that the meeting will direct its main attention to the service of science in the present national emergency.

YALE UNIVERSITY received by the will of John W. Sterling, of the class of 1864, a distinguished New York lawyer, the residue of his estate, which it is said amounts to fifteen million dollars.—Mr. Hobart W. Williams has given to the University of Chicago property to the value of \$2,000,000, part of the income to be used for the development of the school of commerce and administration.